

NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Carol A. Murray, Commissioner

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ONE-WAY TOLL COLLECTION TO BEGIN AT HAMPTON TOLL PLAZA
SIX WEEK TRIAL WILL INVOLVE DOUBLE RATES NORTHBOUND
WHILE SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC WILL TRAVEL TOLL FREE

In an effort to improve service and reduce traffic congestion, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation announces plans to implement one-way tolling at the Hampton Toll Plaza on Interstate 95, effective Friday, August 22, 2003.

"While we have continually made physical and operational changes at the Hampton Toll, we recognize that traffic back-ups are still an issue, particularly at this time of year," says NHDOT Commissioner Carol Murray. "This major change is on a trial basis and will be evaluated as to its effectiveness."

Beginning shortly after midnight (Thursday night), tolls at the Hampton facility will be collected in the northbound direction only, with the toll rates for all vehicles to be doubled. For example, the \$1.00 toll for passenger cars will double to \$2.00. Tolls for tractor-trailer trucks (five axles) will double from \$3.50 to \$7.00. All southbound traffic will travel toll free through the Hampton Toll Plaza. Ramp toll rates to Hampton and NH Route 101 will remain unchanged.

"This trial will allow us to determine the feasibility of a long-run permanent change. Motorists will benefit from less congestion, there will be no net additional cost to motorists, visitors to New Hampshire will have a better experience, and the environment might even benefit from reduced exhaust," Governor Craig Benson says.

During peak traffic periods, northbound traffic will be able to initially utilize a maximum of ten lanes, which will all be staffed by NHDOT toll attendants. Southbound traffic will utilize four lanes and will not be staffed. The southbound speed limit through the plaza area will remain at 35 MPH because traffic will continue to travel between existing tolls booths. State Police will be present at the Hampton Tolls to enforce the posted speed limits. New signing, barrels, cones and electronic message boards will be used to assist motorists in the transition to one-way tolling. Traffic counters will be in place on secondary routes to measure the possible impact of traffic avoiding the Hampton Toll Plaza.

Last year a \$2.2 million project widened the I-95 approaches to the Hampton Toll Plaza for 1.8 miles south of the plaza and 1.3 miles north of the plaza to improve traffic flow. Work also continues to introduce E-Z Pass electronic tolling on the New Hampshire Turnpike System.